

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 SCEM-02 DOTE-00

FPC-01 AGR-20 IO-12 RSR-01 /185 W
----- 020637

R 091150 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5169

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KATHMANDU 1970

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NP , IN, ENRG, EAID

SUBJECT: INDIAN PLANNING MINISTER VISITS KATHMANDU; PROGRESS
ON KARNALI

REF: KATHMANDU 0752, FEB 16

KATHMANDU A-13, FEB 8

1. SUMMARY: INDIAN PLANNING MINISTER D P DHAR VISITED KATHMANDU
APRIL 29 - MAY 3 AND HELD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH GON OFFICIALS
ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND AID ISSUES. MAJOR RESULT WAS WHAT
APPEARS TO BE BREAKTHROUGH ON KARNALI HYDRO- ELECTRIC PROJECT:
INDIANS GOT NEPALESE TO AGREE TO GET MOVING ON THIS MASSIVE
PROJECT BY GIVING UP INSISTENCE THAT NEGOTIATIONS BE PURELY
BILATERAL, I. E., BY AGREEING THAT NEPAL COULD RECRUIT WHATEVER
TALENT IT NEEDED FROM INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES TO SERVE AS PART
OF ITS NEGOTIATING TEAM. (MUCH WATER WILL RUN DOWN THE KARNALI,
HOWEVER, BEFORE PROJECT IS FINALIZED.) ANOTHER GOI CONCESSION
WAS AGREEMENT TO BUILD IMPORTANT HILL ROAD CONNECTING KATHMANDU
WITH DHANKUTA, EASTERN DEVELOPMENT ZONE' S HEADQUARTERS.

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2. DHAR VISIT APPEARS CONSTITUTE FOLLOWUP TO PRIME MINISTER GANDHI'S FEBRUARY 7-10 OFFICIAL VISIT. EARLIER VISIT CLEARED THE AIR POLITICALLY, AND DHAR FOLLOWED, APPARENTLY WITH VIRTUAL BLANK CHECK FROM MRS GANDHI, THE FRAKTION IS SO EVEN THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO FORESEE WHO WILL BE ELECTED FLOOR LEADER OR EVEN TO FORESEE WHO IN THEORY COULD EFFECTIVELY REUNITE THE FRAKTION BEHIND HIM AND LEAD IT EFFECTIVELY IN THE DAY- TO- DAY FIGHTING IN THE BUNDESTAG. PERHAPS SCHROEDER, PERHAPS MARX, BUT IT IS STILL MUCH TOO OPEN TO MAKE A USEFUL PREDICTION. IN ANY CASE, AT THIS POINT BARZEL INTENDS TO CONTINUE AS PARTY CHAIRMAN AND SEEK RE- ELECTION IN OCTOBER. HILLENBRAND

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ADP000
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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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FPC-01 AGR-20 IO-12 RSR-01 /185 W
----- 020515

R 091150 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5170
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KATHMANDU 1970

5. KATHMANDU (DOLALGHAT)- DHANKUTA ROAD. THIS WAS SOMETHING, ACCORDING TO DR GURUNG, THAT GON TEAM WANTED; IT HAD NOT BEEN PART OF PACKAGE DHAR BROUGHT WITH HIM. HOWEVER, DESPITE FACT THAT THIS IS MAJOR PROJECT BY NEPALESE STANDARDS AND IS SITUATED IN DIFFICULT TERRAIN, DHAR COMMITTED GOI TO UNDERTAKE NOT JUST A PRELIMINARY SURVEY BUT THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION, APPARENTLY AS A TRADE- OFF FOR THE BREAKTHROUGH ON KARNALI. THE ROAD ITSELF HAS NOT FIGURED IN PREVIOUS GON PLANNING BUT APPEARS TO BE PERSONAL PROJECT OF KING BIRENDRA HIMSELF. AS REPORTED IN A-16 OF FEBRUARY 2, BIRENDRA MADE A SPEECH AT NEPALGUNJ JANUARY 31 IN WHICH HE INDICATED HE PERSONALLY FELT EAST/ WEST HIGHWAY RUNNING THROUGH HILLS WAS AS URGENTLY NEEDED

AS THE EAST/ WEST HIGHWAY CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN TERAI,
WHICH HAS BEEN NAMED THE MAHENDRA HIGHWAY. (THE HILLS HIGHWAY
WILL PRESUMABLY BE NAMED AFTER BIRENDRA IN DUE COURSE.)

6. OTHER BUSINESS. PRESS REPORTS VARIOUSLY HINTED THAT SUBSTANTIAL
INCREASE IN TOTAL INDIAN AID LEVEL TO NEPAL WAS IN OFFING AS
RESULT DHAR TRIP, CITING INCREASED AID IN HORTICULTURE AND OTHER
AGRICULTURAL FIELDS, JOINT INDUSTRIAL VENTURES, ETC. HOWEVER,
DR GURUNG IMPLIED THAT AS FAR AS OTHER INDIAN AID WAS CONCERNEMAY 21,
1973. UNQUOTE. END NOT
FOR PUBLICATION.
SCHMIDT

UNCLASSIFIED
NMAFVVZCZ

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